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the Bedauye, the Somali, the Masai and the Nama, Prof. Meinhof presents the following conclusions, with which we are quite compelled to agree.

The Hamitic languages differ in use and principle from the Sudan speech, and such apparent agreement herewith as grammar and vocabulary exhibit are due to contamination through loan.

The Hamitic languages constitute a speech-form which in structure shows affiliation with both the Semitic and Indo-Germanic tongues, and where it varies from both it shows a position nearer the Semitic.

That there is some manner of relationship between Hamitic and Bantu languages is not to be denied, as it is not to be forgotten that in the Bantu there is a speech element which indicates affiliation with the Sudan type.

In the interpretation of these three important conclusions I incline to go a step beyond Meinhof. It seems to me that he has established for his Hamitic tongues a position at the most early stage of agglutination and thus detects community of type with the other languages of agglutination (a position nearer the Semitic) and with the earlier forms of the inflected Indo-Germanic.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

Vom Mittelmeer zum Nordrand der Sahara. Eine botanische Frühlingsfahrt nach Algerien. Von Dr. M. Rikli und Dr. C. Schröter. 178 pp. Ills. O. Füssli, Zürich, 1913(?). 10 x 6½.

The record of a botanical exploration of that arable strip of Algeria which lies between the Sahara and the sea, a trip in spring time when the desert might be expected to blossom as the rose. The flora studied under these favorable considerations is correlated with the climatic factors which constitute the aerial influence and with the structural geographical and underlying geological factors that constitute the telluric influence which determines the vegetation of the region. To these studies have been added brief but noteworthy chapters by C. Hartwich upon Algerine dye stuffs and eye-cosmetics, by O. Schneider-Orelli upon the parasitic fungi, by Mathilde Schneider-Orelli on the plant-galls, and by L. Rüttimeyer on certain archaeological materials.

La Politique indigène de l'Angleterre en Afrique Occidentale. Par Emile Baillaud. xxxix and 560 pp. Hachette et Cie, Paris, 1912. Fr. 7.50. 9 x 5½.

A map might well have been inserted to facilitate orientation. Where such a number of countries, peoples and tribes are concerned, graphic geography becomes very desirable. The work is to be commended as the result of prolonged personal experience and observation and for its impartiality. While giving credit to England and its representatives in western Africa for shrewdness and practical sense, the means employed are often criticized by the author. Towards the aborigines, he affirms, humanity has frequently been invoked to excuse measures that were not humane, but the outcome has always been an extension of British power which, frequently, has resulted in benefiting the natives.

AD. F. BANDELIER.

Missions dans le Katanga. I: Le Commerce au Katanga: Influences Belges et Étrangères. Par G. de Leener. xviii and 143 pp. Ills. Fr. 3. II: L'Agriculture au Katanga: Possibilités et Réalités. Par A. Hock. 305 pp. Map, ill. Fr. 3.50. Institut Solvay, Brussels. Misch & Thron, Brussels & Leipzig, 1912. 7½ x 5.

L'Institut de sociologie Solvay is promoting research relating to sociological topics and is publishing the results of these studies. During 1909-1910 it sent two experts into the southeastern part of the Belgian Congo known as Katanga to investigate its commercial and agricultural possibilities. These two volumes contain the results of this work. The studies are especially timely because a part of Katanga is one of the great future sources of copper now developing and because a part of the plateau stands so high above the sea that Belgian colonists, under certain restrictions, are invited to settle there as farmers. Both books are full of information.

Mr. de Leener finds that Katanga, though a part of the Belgian Congo and administered by Belgian officials, is commercially tributary to British South

Africa and completely dependent upon it for its imported supplies because the import trade in the British domain is large and well-organized and has direct rail communication with Katanga. This condition must persist till Belgian trading interests are linked with those of Katanga by adequate transportation routes, and even then it may not be easy to overcome the preponderance in the business affairs of the province which British South Africa has attained. Among the author's many suggestions he proposes that British South Africa be taken as a model upon which to shape commercial and manufacturing development in Katanga.

The volume by Mr. Hock is a very instructive discussion of agricultural possibilities and prospects in which he treats of climate, soils, the prospects of raising paying crops, domestic animals, native labor, etc. He has no illusion as to the task before the pioneer farmer. Men of uncommon fiber are needed to turn that wilderness into gardens and fields. Still, many of the European grains, root crops, and garden products can be raised, also a considerable variety of the domestic animals, though the problem of protecting cattle and horses from the fatal bite of the tse-tse fly is still to be solved. This is the most systematic and thorough book that has yet been written on any regions in tropical Africa that are believed to offer opportunities for settlement by the white races.

History of the Basuto, Ancient and Modern. Compiled by D. Fred. Ellenberger, and written in English by J. C. Macgregor. xxii and 396 pp. Map, ill., index. Caxton Publishing Co., London, 1912. 7s. 6d. 9 x 6½.

To the extent that this narrative is a record of Basuto history the volume is extremely welcome. The author is intimately acquainted with the tribe, he has had the advantage of friendship upon the most familiar terms with aged chiefs who were willing to communicate to him of their stores of knowledge of the past. There results a narrative which will be found of great value as a check upon the Boer and British accounts of the conquest of South Africa.

The chapter upon the manners and customs of the Basuto is of a lower order, in fact disappointing. The author is not content to make a record of things seen. His observation appears to have been colored by prejudice and he suffers from one constant and very grave error of method. All customs which seemed to him out of harmony with the customs of modern Europe he has set in comparison with the non-European culture with which he was most familiar, namely that of the earlier Semitic record. Observation and this unconscious interpretation are so involved that this material must be used with extreme caution. This preconception is made most manifest in Ellenberger's research after the remote history of the Basuto, as in this statement: "But, and this is remarkable, the women who wear the national dress wear under it round the loins a girdle of twisted grass called the *thethana*, which word may be derived from the Hebrew *thanah*, the fig tree, of the leaves of which Adam and Eve made themselves aprons." He deals similarly with the Bushmen (Baroa). Disregarding the somewhat extensive literature which collates the relation of the Baroa with the prehistoric man of Europe and western Africa, he extends pages in proof of the derivation of this pygmy people from the Canaanites of Mount Hor who were dispossessed by Esau when he took possession of Mount Seir. However this may be, the volume appears under the auspices of the Basutoland government, therefore its modern chapters must be assumed to have value.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

In the Shadow of the Bush. By P. Amaury Talbot. xiv and 500 pp. Map, ill., index. W. Heinemann, London. George H. Doran Co., New York, 1912. \$5. 9 x 6½.

The "bush" in this book is in southeastern Nigeria with a small section of the Kameruns between the Cross River and the Gulf of Guinea. Here the author finds a people, the Ekoi, which have not come into contact with civilization and thus they retain their ancient habits. The writer transcribes many tales and traditions which illustrate nearly every phase of Ekoi life. The book is largely a record of social and religious customs. One of the remarkable features is the existence of secret societies which dominate the whole